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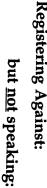
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Registering Against:	Registering in Favor: but <u>not</u> speaking:	Speaking in Favor: Speaking Against:	(Representing)	(City and Zip Code)	(Street Address or Route Number)	(NAME) PO BOX 11,23	Or SUBJECT	BILL NO. 58 353	(Please Print Plainly)

THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SUPPORTS MAKING VETERANS DAY A STATE HOLIDAY.

VETERANS DAY IS THE DAY SET ASIDE TO THANK AND HONOR ALL THOSE WHO SERVED HONORABLY IN THE MILITARY, BOTH IN WARTIME AND PEACETIME. VETERANS DAY IS LARGELY INTENDED TO THANK LIVING VETERANS FOR THEIR SERVICE, TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY ARE APPRECIATED AND TO UNDERSCORE THE FACT THAT ALL THOSE WHO SERVED OR ARE SERVING HAVE SACRIFICED AND DONE THEIR DUTY. VETERANS DAY IS A CELEBRATION TO HONOR AMERICA'S VETERANS FOR THEIR PATRIOTISM, LOVE OF COUNTRY AND WILLINGNESS TO SERVE AND SACRIFICE FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

EACH YEAR COMMUNITIES ALL ACROSS WISCONSIN CONDUCT EVENTS AND CEREMONIES TO HONOR VETERANS, ESPECIALLY THE ONES WHO LIVE, WORK AND RAISE THEIR FAMILIES IN THAT COMMUNITY. YET OUR CITIZENS MUST TAKE TIME OFF FROM WORK TO ATTEND OR PARTICIPATE IN THESE

Testimony for SB 353 Rep. Mark Pettis Senate Committee on Labor and Agriculture February 20, 2002

Honoring our veteran's is a very serious thing for many people, especially in light of the sacrifices they have made for our country. Having a day set aside to honor them is not only appropriate, but historical as well. It is only fitting that we honor those that have served our country with a state holiday. The unselfish acts of these men and women deserve such an honor.

Under current law, the state does not set aside November 11th as an official paid holiday; however, Veterans' Day is only considered a legal holiday. A legal holiday is defined as a day where certain specific legal functions of state government are not performed, however, most other state government functions are state performed. Other legal holidays in the state include Presidents' Day and Columbus Day both of which are federal, but not state paid holidays.

Wisconsin is the ONLY state not to honor our veteran's with a state holiday. Assembly Bill 690 would add Veteran's Day to other official paid holidays Wisconsin observes including Martin Luther King Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day. In all cases state governmental offices are closed, including some schools. This bill would not require schools to be closed, local school boards would have the option just as they do with the day honoring Dr. Martin Luther King in January.

According to statistics provided by the National Conference of State Legislatures, nationally, the average number of official paid holidays granted is 11.2 days. In Wisconsin, the number of days allowed are 9 with Minnesota offering 11 and Michigan and Illinois each allowing 12.

Wisconsin has a great Veteran heritage dating back to the Civil War. We need to officially honor that heritage and give everyone the opportunity to do the same.

In 1921, an unknown World War I American soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. This site, on a hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, became the focal point of reverence for America's veterans.

Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an unknown soldier was buried in each nation's highest place of honor. These memorial gestures all took place on November 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I fighting at 11 a.m., November 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). The day became known as "Armistice Day".

Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a Congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later in 1938 by similar Congressional action.

In 1954 President Eisenhower signed a bill passed by congress changing Armistice Day to Veterans Day in order to honor all Veteran's from all wars or periods of service. A law passed in 1968 changed the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. It soon became apparent, however, that November 11 was a date of historic significance to many Americans. Therefore, in 1978 Congress returned the observance to its traditional date.

Our state prides itself by being one of the best states in the nation for Veterans to retire. Wisconsin recognizes their importance by providing some of the best benefits to veterans in the country, it only makes sense we set aside a day to honor their sacrifice.

Vote Record

Senate - Committee on Labor and Agriculture

Date:	353	Seconded by: Clearinghouse Rule: Appointment: Other:	Han.	oen
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Be recommended for: Passage Introduction Adoption Rejection		Indefinite Postponemer Tabling Concurrence Nonconcurrence Confirmation	nt	
Committee Member Sen. David Hansen, Chair Sen. Russell Decker Sen. Jim Baumgart Sen. Alan Lasee Sen. Sheila Harsdorf		Aye No	Absent	Not Voting
	Totals: _	3		<u> </u>

Senate

Committee on Labor and Agriculture Senator Dave Hansen, Chair

PAPER BALLOT

Date:	February 21, 2002
Bill:	Senate Bill 353 - relating to state government holidays
Motion:	Passage
Moved by:	Harsdorf
Seconded by	: Hansen
Aye:	No:
Hus (Lecher
Senator Russ	Decker

Please return to Senator Hansen's office (by messenger) by 5 pm TODAY (2/21/02).

Please call the Committee Clerk, Lisa Ellinger, at 266-5670 if you have any questions.

Senate

Committee on Labor and Agriculture Senator Dave Hansen, Chair

PAPER BALLOT

Date:

February 21, 2002

Bill:

Senate Bill 353 - relating to state government holidays

Motion:

Passage

Moved by: Harsdorf

Seconded by: Hansen

Senator Alan Lasee

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